

Atty. Docket No.: 15675.P466
Express Mail #: EV339917794US

**United States Patent Application
in the Name of**

Henri Georges Bois

for

**IMPROVEMENTS TO PACKAGING BAGS HAVING SLIDER-
CONTROLLED CLOSURE STRIPS**

**Submitted by
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
12400 Wilshire Blvd., Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026**

IMPROVEMENTS TO PACKAGING BAGS HAVING SLIDER-CONTROLLED
CLOSURE STRIPS

The present invention relates to the field of
packaging bags having closure strips for multiple opening
5 and closing operations.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Nowadays, most such bags are fitted with a slider
designed to facilitate opening and closing the bags,
respectively by separating and engaging closure strips.

10 In conventional manner, such sliders essentially
define two channels receiving respective ones of the two
closure strips, the channels being separated by a middle
partition that is positioned between the two strips, or
being associated with equivalent means adapted to act on
15 the strips. The two channels converge towards each other
at one end of the slider and diverge from each other
towards the opposite end thereof.

Thus, depending on the direction in which the slider
is moved, it tends either to move the strips towards each
20 other and bring them into engagement so as to close the
bag, or else to move them apart so as to open the bag.

Furthermore, at present, there exists a strong
demand for a system that can be used to show whether or
not such a bag has been opened for the first time.

25 Such first-opening markers that are available on the
market are generally in the form of a web placed inside
the closure strips and interconnecting the two walls of
the bag, the web being designed to be ruptured on first
opening, e.g. as described in document FR-A-2 546 481.

30 Proposals have also been made for packaging bags
with closure strips, a slider associated therewith, and a
marker strip placed on the path of the slider and
designed to be ruptured by the slider on first opening.

In document FR-A-2 817 843, the Applicant has
35 proposed a variant of such bags in which the marker strip
is of two colors, presenting different colors
respectively on its inside and outside faces.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention is to improve existing devices.

In the context of the present invention, this object
5 is achieved by a packaging bag having closure strips, a slider associated therewith, and at least one marker strip adapted to prevent the slider being manipulated prior to the marker strip being ruptured, wherein said marker strip is formed integrally with a wall of the bag
10 and includes a single-use adhesive zone designed to fix it in its in-use position on the opposite wall of the bag.

The term "single-use adhesive zone" is used to mean a zone provided with adhesive that presents adhesive properties such that once it has been put into place, it cannot be removed or unstuck without visibly destroying at least one of the bag support wall and the marker strip itself.
15

BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS OF THE DRAWINGS

20 Other characteristics, objects, and advantages of the present invention appear on reading the following detailed description with reference to the accompanying drawings given as non-limiting examples, and in which:

- Figure 1 is a diagrammatic fragmentary view in perspective of a bag in accordance with the present invention, prior to the marker strip being put into place;
- Figure 2 is a fragmentary diagrammatic view in perspective of the same bag in accordance with the present invention after the marker strip has been put into place;
- Figure 3 is a similar diagrammatic view after the marker strip of the present invention has been ruptured;
- Figure 4 is a similar diagrammatic view of a bag constituting a variant embodiment of the present invention;

- Figure 5 is a diagrammatic perspective view of a slider constituting a preferred embodiment of the present invention; and
- 5 · Figure 6 is a diagram showing another variant embodiment of the present invention.

MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In their general structure, the bags, closure strips, and sliders used in the context of the present invention may be constituted by any variant known to the 10 person skilled in the art, in particular as to the material from they are made and the shape which they present.

Under such conditions, these elements are not described in detail below. Furthermore, they should not 15 be considered as being restricted to the embodiments shown diagrammatically in the accompanying figures.

In the figures, the bags are given overall reference 10, the closure strips overall reference 20, and the slider overall reference 30.

20 As mentioned above, in the context of the present invention, a marker strip 40 is provided that is made integrally with one wall of the bag in the vicinity of the mouth of the bag, said marker strip being adapted initially, and prior to being ruptured, to prevent any 25 manipulation of the slider 300.

In a first embodiment, as shown in Figures 1 to 4, the marker strip 40 is placed on the path of the slider 30 so as to ensure that said strip 40 is ruptured by the slider on first opening of the bag.

30 In a second embodiment, as shown in Figure 6, the marker strip 40 is adapted initially to cover the slider so that the slider cannot be manipulated without rupturing the strip 40.

35 The marker strip 40 formed integrally with one of the walls of the bag is made out of the same material as that wall. It is therefore made out of plastics material.

In the particular embodiment shown in Figures 1 to 3, the marker strip 40 is formed by a strip of plastics material formed integrally with a longitudinal edge of a sheet constituting the bag, parallel with the mouth of the bag.

On its opposite free edge 41, the marker strip 40 is provided with a single-use adhesive zone 43 designed for fixing the marker strip to the bag on the path of the slider 30, as shown in Figure 2.

For this purpose, the marker strip 40 is folded over as a U-shape with its concave side facing towards the body of the bag, and the adhesive zone 43 is fixed to the bag as shown in Figure 2.

Still more precisely, the strip 40 is positioned adjacent to the slider 30 when it is in its bag-closing position. Thus, as soon as the slider 30 begins to be moved for the first time, the slider 30 engages the marker strip 40 and ruptures it.

Figure 3 shows a marker strip 40 that has been ruptured by moving the slider 30.

Where appropriate, it is thus possible to provide a plurality of discontinuous or distinct marker strips 40 that are distributed along the mouth of the bag so as to make the fact of first opening more visible.

In a variant, as shown in Figure 4, the marker strip 40 may be continuous along the entire width of the mouth of the bag.

Furthermore, it is advantageous to make the marker strip 40 in the form of a colored strip of color that is different from the remainder of the bag so as to clearly identify the fact that the bag has been opened.

More precisely, in accordance with the invention, the marker strip 40 is of two colors: it presents a first color on its outer face, the only face visible before it is ruptured, and it is of a second color on its inner face, said second color being different from the first and being revealed after the marker strip has been

ruptured, as can be seen in Figure 3, thereby clearly revealing that the strip has been ruptured.

In accordance with another advantageous characteristic of the invention, the marker strip 40 can 5 be fitted with a longitudinal precut line 46 making it easier for the strip to rupture under the application of force by the slider 30.

As can be seen in Figure 5, the slider 30 may be provided, where appropriate, at its end that is 10 originally adjacent to the marker strip 40 with a blade or nose 32 designed to engage the inside face of the marker the strip 40 and thus make it easier to rupture the strip.

Advantageously, the blade 32 possesses a leading 15 face 34 that slopes relative to the top face 31 of the slider so as to define progressive engagement between the blade 32 and the marker strip 40. As can be seen in Figure 5, the leading face 34 of the blade 32 moves away from the plane of the top face 31 of the slider 30 on 20 going towards its tip.

Naturally, such a blade 32 is advantageously formed integrally with the slider 30, e.g. by molding.

The present invention is not limited to the 25 embodiments described above, but extends to any variant within its spirit.

The person skilled in the art will understand that using single-use adhesive zones makes it simple to put the marker strip of the present invention into place whether before, and above all after, the slider 30 has 30 been put into place on the closure strips 20.